THE FRENCH

Kinges Declaration and Confirmation of the Proclamation of *Nantes*, by his Mtie. granted *to those of the pretended reformed* Religion.

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By *I. B.*

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The Confirmation

of the Proclamations of *Nants*, *graunted by his Maiestie to those* of the pretended reformed Religion.

(..)

LEWES, by the grace of God King of *France* and of *Nauarre*: To all those, &c. Our greatest desire sinceour comming to this Crowne, for which we doe continually implore the grace of God; and wherein the Queene *Regent*, our most honorable Lady and Mother, hath continually most carefully laboured; hath tended to be able

to mainteine and preſerue all our Subiectes in reſt, peace, and tranquilitie; and in good amitie, vnitie, & concord one with another: a matter importing the principall foundation of the vpholding of this eſtate. To this effect, ſo ſoone as it pleaſed God to viſit vs with the ſiniſter accident of the death of our moſt honored Lord and Father of glorious memorie, wee reſolued our ſelfe to imitate and walke in the ſame wayes that he had taken, to attaine to the ſame ende: And hauing found, that after he had by his valour reſtored this eſtate into the antient eminencie thereof, he had with great care, labour, and foreiudgement; and for a foundation of an aſſured quietneſſe, and perfect reconciliation among all his Subiectes: and namely to take from thoſe of the pretended reformed Religion, all occaſion of feare and miſtruſt, which they might conceiue concerning the libertie and ſafetie of their Perſons, Conſciences, Honors, Goods, and Families; made, and decreed the ſame which is conteined in his Proclamation giuen at *Nants* in Aprill. 1598. by the obſeruation whereof, and of the ſecret Articles, Briefes, and

Rules,

Rules, made in consequence thereof, had happely ruled and gouerned his people in peace, euen to his deceafe. As alſo, one of the firſt actions that we vndertooke in our reigne, tended to diſpatch our Letters of declaration of the xxij. of May 1610. importing a confirmation of the ſayd Proclamation, and of the ſecret Articles, Rules, and Decrees, giuen to the execution and interpretation of the ſame; which at the ſame inſtant we ſent to all our Parliamentes to be verified: and ſoone after, we ſent into all the Prouinces of our Realme, ſome of the principall of our Counſell, and other qualified perſons whom we choſe, as well Catholickes, as of the pretended reformed Religion, to cyment and fet faſt the entier eſtabliſhment and execution of the ſayd Proclamation, and of the fauours graunted in ſuite thereof; hauing euer ſince, continued employing whatſoeuer our care and authoritie to this effect.

But it is come to paſſe, that our good meaninges haue not wrought that effect, which we might haue deſired, among all our Subiectes; of whom ſome, namely of thoſe of

the ſayd pretended reformed Religion, by ſome ſhadowes which they lightly conceiued through certaine diuers accurrences, are entered into iealowſies and miſtruſtes one of another; whereof haue enſued, that they haue ſuffered themſelues to be caryed, to the augmenting of the ordinarie guardes, ſtirring vp and making prouiſion of Armour, aſſembling of Souldiers, houlding of Aſſemblies and Counſels, with other actions, wholly contrarying the tenour and obſeruation of the ſayd Proclamation: Wherto neuertheleſſe, wee are content to beleeue, that they haue been induced rather by ſome apprehenſion that they haue taken of themſelues, and vnder falſe ſhadowes and pretences, then of any bad mindes or intentes: as hauing alwayes acknowledged thoſe of the ſayd Religion in generall, to haue been very well affected to the good of our ſeruice, and faſt and aſſured to the regard, fidelitie, and obedience, that they owe vnto vs.

But as this euill may draw after it moſt dangerous conſequences, wee haue thought it neceſſarie to prouide and remedie it, and

to re-establish that good loue, intelligence, and facietie that ought to be indifferently among all our sayd Subiects, to the maintenance of their common quiet; which as it seemeth, can not be more assuredly brought to passe, then by the exact obseruation of the sayd Proclamation, secret Articles, Briefes, and other Actes, made in suite of the same, and withall, giuing a new assurance to our sayd Subiects of the sayd pretended reformed Religion, of our good inclination in their behalfes, and of that intent that we haue to preserue, maintein, protect, and make them inuiolably to enioy all the fauours, grauntes, and graces, that haue been graunted vnto them as well by the said Proclamation, as since the same, euen as they did in the life time of the late King vntill his decease, as also all that haue since by vs been graunted vnto them.

For these causes and others, thereto vs mouing, hauing put this affaire in deliberation to our Counsell, wherin were assistant the Queene Regent, our most honoured Ladie and Mother, the Princes of our blood, and other Princes, with many Officers of

our

our Crowne, and principall Counsayteurs of our Counsell: By the aduice thereof, wee haue sayd and declared, and doe say and declare; will, and it is our pleasure, that the aforesayd Proclamation of *Nantes*, together with our Declaration of the xxiii. of May 1610. with all the perticular Articles, Rules, Decrees, and other Law dispatches in consequence and in interpretation or execution of the same, shall be againe read and published in all our Courtes and Bayliwickes of them depending, hauing to the same end, and so long as need shall require, confirmed them; and by these presentes signed with our owne hand, doe confirme them.

WEE will and ordaine, that the whole shall be receiued, and inuiolably obserued, without any contrarying in any sort or manner whatsoeuer. And in as much as the breaches hereof made by some of our sayd Subiectes, proceeded rather of the suspitious & mistrustes wherewith they were slightly caried away, then for want of any affection, will, or obedience; which they alwayes testified vnto vs in al occasions that haue been offered

offered: as also hoping that hereafter, they will conteine them selues in their duties vnder the obseruation of our Proclamation and Decrees; Wee will, meane, and it is our pleasure, that all Decrees, Actes, and other Expeditions, that haue been giuen and made against them, as well in generall as in particular, for any cause or occasion whatsoeuer, shall be voyde and as not made, so as by occasion or in sute of the same, they shall not incurre any reproch, danger, or damage, neither be hereafter molested, or called in question. And hereupon, we doe impose silence to all our Atturnies general, their substitutes, and all others: As also, wee doe expressly forbid all our sayd Subiectes conformably to the seuentie seuenth, and eighty two Articles of the sayd Proclamation, hereafter to make any callinges of Assemblies, or holding of any prouinciall Counsels, or other leauies, or gathering of Armes, or men of Warre, or any other actions directly or indirectly, repugnant to our sayd Proclamations or Declarations, vnder paine of disobedience, and to be punished as disturbers of the publicke peace.

of

Wee alſo commaund our welbeloued and truſtie Counſaylours, the people holding our Court of Parliament of *Paris*, and all other our Courtes of Parliament, and Chambers of Proclamation eſtabliſhed throughout this Kingdome, that the aforeſayd Proclamation of Pacification, ſecret Articles, Brieues, Declarations, and other Letters patentes to them ſent in conſequence of the ſame; togeather with theſe preſentes, they cauſe immeadiatly to be read and publiſhed in all places accuſtomed in ſuch caſes, and the Contentes of the ſame to cauſe to be kept and obſerued, and inuiolably to be maintained; ceaſing, and cauſing to ceaſe, all troubles and hinderaunces to the contrary.

Wee alſo doe enioyne all our Atturnies generall, diligently to ſet to their handes: And in caſe there ſhall hereafter, be any gaineſayers to cauſe ſuch ſeuerre proceedinges againſt them, that the example of their puniſhment may be a reſtraint to others: For ſuch is our pleaſure.

In witneſſe whereof, wee haue cauſed to

put

put our Seale to these Presentes.

Giuen at *Paris* the 15. of December the yeare of grace 1612. and of our reigne the third.

Signed *LEWES.*

And vpon the fould; By the King being in his Counsell, the Queene Regent his mother present.

DE LOMENIE.

FINIS.

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